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### ILLINOIS POWER ORGANIZES COAL TAR CLEANUP

DECATUR, Ill., -- Illinois Power today outlined a plan to isolate and contain coal tar residues discovered at an former gas manufacturing plant in Champaign. The company will close off the site, identify any health hazards, and then clean the affected area.

Workmen performing land-grading operations exposed apparent coal tar and coal tar oil in a parking lot at American Legion Post 559, at 5th and Hill Streets.

At an organizational meeting of city officials, environmental health authorities and property-holders, Illinois Power said a fence would be erected to enclose the parking lot, and the Legion post would be relocated while the exposed residue is recovered and the area is cleaned.

Illinois Power has notified the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and will coordinate its cleanup efforts with the agency.

The company sold the property to the American Legion post in 1979. This site is one of 24 former or present gas manufacturing locations targeted for investigation in 1986, after a federal study made the utility industry aware of potential problems at such locations.

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Illinois Power is currently investigating a former gas facility in Cairo, Ill., and had planned to subsequently conduct a survey, beginning in October, at the Champaign gas plant. That study will begin immediately, with a site survey by consultant John Mathes and Associates, Inc., of Columbia, Ill., to determine what corrective action may be necessary. The survey is expected to last 6 - 9 months.

The company emphasized that a prompt response from all interested parties would avert any possible health hazard to the public.